



IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN By the Grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting. WHEREAS we have bene informed, as well by a lamentable Petition on the behalfe of fifteene hundred of our loving Subjects, English men, remaining in miserable servitude and subiection in Argier, Tunis, Sally, Tituane, exhibited to the Lords Spirituall & Temporall, in our last Parliament assembly, thereby pitifully craving some good meane to be taken for their reliefe and redemption, As also by an order taken and set downe, the seven and twentieth day of May, 1624, by the sayd Lords then in Parliament assembled: thereby ordering, that Letters Patents should be made for their reliefe, to the effect in these presents following: The humble and lamentable complaint of aboute fifteene hundred poore Captives soules, now vnder the miserable oppression of the Turkes in Argier, Tunis, Sally, and Tituane, who lamentably shew, That being surprized in one hundred and fifty of his Majesties Subjects Shippes by Turkish Pyrates, and now remaining in the said Ports, and held in miserable slavery, and sold from party to party, and kept in chaines of Iron, their food, bread and water, to their extreame griefe, some these three yeeres, some more, some lesse; not onely to the great damage of themselves, but of their poore wiues and children, who are all ready to starue and perish for want of meanes for their sustentation: And they further most lamentably complaine, that most of the youthfuller sort are of late forced and compelled by intolerable and insufferable punishments and torments, to deny their Saviour, and turne to their Mahometan Religion, and to deny their owne King and Countrey, which (God knowes) is to their great griefe, and bitter discomfort for ever, vnlesse their reliefe and freedom may be purchased and obtained by the fauourable and pious consideration and assistance of this Honourable Assembly, without which they are like to be all utterly ruined both in body and soule, and their poore wiues and children likely (through extremity and want) miserably to perish. NOW the lamentable complaint and cry of so many poore soules, and the grieuous torments they now sustaine for their conscience sake, being well weighed and considered of, by this great and graue Assembly, They humbly vpon their bare knees, for Christ Jesus sake, most humbly desire, that (out of the bowels of compassion) your Honours will be pleased to take some speedy course and meanes for the freeing of them out of the mercilesse hands of those cruell Infidels: all reliefe and comfort heretofore sent them by their poore wiues & friends being detained and kept from them; by reason whereof they are enforced to grinde corne in bestiall manner like horses, for to get some foode to preserve their wretched liues, with infinite miseries, not here mentioned for breuities sake, and the great and extreme necessities of their poore wiues and children: And they with all their wiues and children, being many hundreds in number, shall daily pray for the happy successe of your Honours in all your enterprises.

Vpon the reading of which Petition, it is, this seven and twentieth day of May, 1624. ordered by the Lords Spirituall and Temporall in this present Parliament assembled, That Letters Patents be granted for a Collection throughout the whole Kingdome of England, and Dominion of Wales, for redemption of those miserable Captives; the sayd Letters Patents to be granted vpon commendations from the Lords of the Parliament, vpon Petition preferred to their Lordships: The said Letters Patents, with printed Brieves to be sent to the Lords Bishops in their severall Diocesses, within each Province, and their Lordships to send the Brieves to all the Ministers of euery Parish within their Diocese: which Ministers by especiall exhortation, are to stirre by the charity of their Parishioners, for a liberall contribution towards this so charitable a worke: The money in euery Parish to be collected by the Churchwardens and Querekers of the poore; who presently after the Collection, shall declare publicquely in the Church what is collected, and the same summe to be put on the backside of the Brieve, with their and the Ministers hands to it: and then the Churchwardens and Querekers of the poore, or one of them, to deliuer the same Collection to some such Minister in euery Deanery, as shall be nominated by the Lord Bishop for the receipt of the same: And those Ministers to deliuer the same within ten daies after the receipt thereof, to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese; and euery Bishop to deliuer ouer the Collection made in his Diocese to his Metropolitan: And the Metropolitan of Yorke, to transmit what is collected within his Province, to the Archbishop of Canterbury, vnto whom by order of the House, all the money to be collected for this vse, is to be deliuered; who, with the aduise of sixe Lords of Parliament, and the Lords of his Majesties Privie Councell, is to dispose of the said money so collected, for reliefe and redemption of the Captives, as is specified in the Petition, and not otherwise: Capitulum commendations to all Pastors, &c. and this to continue for one whole yeere. And by way of example, the Lords of Parliament are now ready to leade the way by giving in their severall ranks, (and so do order) forty shillings of euery member aboute the degree of a Baron: And those of the degree of Barons (Lords Spirituall and Temporall) twenty shillings apiece, to bee presently payed into the hands of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, to be disposed of, as the rest of the moneys to be collected for the vse aboue mentioned. And it is further ordered, That absent Lords may not be exempted from this Contribution, but that the Lords that haue their Proxies deposite the same for them. And it is also ordered, that all be done without any charge or reward to any person for the same, Ex. H. Elling Cler, Parliamentorum. AND whereas also the said Lords hauing perfectly vnderstood, and duely considered the wofull and pitifull estate of those poore men, and in commiseration of them, haue freely of themselves payed downe presently euery of them aboute the estate of a Baron, forty shillings a piece, and euery other of the estate of a Baron, being Spirituall or Temporall Lords, twenty shillings, to be payed into the hands of the most reuerend father in God, the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, towards this so charitable an action, as by the said Order more at large appeareth: KNOW ye therefore, that we also aboue all other, most grieued at the pitifull and wofull estate of the sayd poore men our Subjects, and much commiserating the same, and much reioycing in the forwardnesse of our said Lords, towards the performance of so christian and charitable an action, whose good example we earnestly desire, that all other our loving Subjects of quality would follow in this behalfe, according to their degrees, of our princely grace, doe ratifie and much approue their said Order so set downe, and in confirmation, and for the execution thereof doe graunt, that according to the said Order, Collection may be made of the charitable deuotion and liberalitie of all our loving Subjects; throughout our Realme of England, and Dominion of Wales, in all places whatsoeuer, towards the reliefe and redemption of our said poore Subjects the Captives aforesaid, to be executed in manner and forme following: That is to say, wee will, grant, appoint, and require, that Walter Dobson, Gentleman Apparitor to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury his Grace, or his Deputie or Deputies named and appointed by him, in writing vnder his hand and seale, shall and may procure to bee printed so many Brieves of these our Letters Patents, as may suffice for the accomplishing and performance of this good worke, and shall carry and shew these our Letters Patents vnder our great Seale, to the said Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, and shall also leaue with his Grace so many of those printed Brieves, as there be Churches or Chappels, wherein publique diuine Service is usually said, within the circuit or precinct of the severall Provinces of Canterbury and Yorke. AND wee require euery of the said Lord Archbishops to receiue the sayd Brieves, and with all speed to distribute vnto each Bishop within his Province, and to send so many vnto the Archbishop of Yorke, as may serue to bee dispersed within the Diocesses of his Province, the said Brieves to be sent by the said Bishops, to the Minister or Curate of euery Parish church and Chappell within their severall Diocesses. AND wee also will and require euery Minister or Curate of any Church or Chappell, to whom such printed Brieves shall be deliuered, that without any long delay, vpon some Sunday or Holiday, when the Parishioners be fully assembled to heare diuine Service, they publicquely declare in their severall Church or Chappell vnto the Congregation there assembled, the tenour of these Brieves, with an especiall exhortation to them, to yeeld their liberall and extraordinary contribution to so charitable a worke. AND wee also will and require you the Churchwardens and Querekers of the poore, to make diligent Collection of the charitable deuotion of the people in the sayd Church or Chappell so assembled, and that after your Collection so made, you doe publicquely declare in the Church, the whole summe of money so by you collected, and then procure the same summe to be set downe vpon the backside of the Brieve, vnder your owne hands, and the hand of the Minister of the said Church or Chappell: And then you the said Churchwardens, or Querekers, or one of you, after the receipt of the same money collected, shall deliuer the summe collected, with the sayd Brieve, vnto such Minister of the Deanery, where the sayd Collection shall be made, as the Lord Bishop of the sayd Diocese, shall assigne or appoint to receiue the same: And the Bishop of euery Diocese, is hereby authorized to name and appoynt a Minister in euery Deanery, to receiue the said Collections accordingly. AND wee also require you the said Minister, which shall be so appoynted to receiue the sayd money from the sayd Querekers, that you receiue the same, with the foresaid Brieve, and that within ten dayes after the receipt thereof, you pay and deliuer the same, with the Brieve, whereby the same hath bene collected, vnto the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, where such Collection is made. AND wee also require you the Bishops of euery Diocese respectiue, that you receiue of the sayd Minister, the sayd money, with the Brieve whereby the same hath bene collected, and deliuer ouer all the sayd Collections made within your Diocese, with the foresaid Brieves, to the Metropolitan of the Province, wherein the Collection shall be made. AND wee likewise require you the sayd Archbishop of Yorke, that you without delay, doe transmit to the said Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, all the summes of money collected within your Province, with the Brieves, whereby the same hath bene collected, with him to remaine, vntill the same be disposed of in such sort, as by the foresaid Order of the seven and twentieth of May, 1624. the same is to be disposed of: Any Statute, Lawe, Ordinance, or Provision, heretofore made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

IN WITNES whereof, we haue caused these our Letters to be made Patents, for the space of one whole yeere next after the date hereof to indure. WITNES Our selfe at Westminster the nine and twentieth day of Iune, in the two and twentieth yeere of our Reigne of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the seven and fiftieth.

God saue the King.

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